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# **National Intelligence Bulletin**

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VIETNAM

The new "revolutionary administration" in Saigon, or Ho Chi Minh City, issued three directives on May 1 concerning security, weapons collection, and public property. Like earlier communiqués broadcast from captured cities and provinces, the new directives promise that there will be no retribution against those who cooperate, but they threaten "severe punishment" against those who do not.

Foreign property and diplomatic residences are to be protected, with communist soldiers ordered to maintain order around those areas.

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A separate communiqué from the Provisional Revolutionary Government's Foreign Ministry, headquartered in the former presidential palace, has instructed all South Vietnamese missions and embassies abroad to "remain at their posts and await new orders." Most of these diplomatic staffs, however, have already requested asylum in the US or other countries.

The communists, according to press reports, state that they have completed the "liberation" of South Vietnam by seizing four holdout provinces in the delta and by disbanding four divisions of the South Vietnamese army.

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LAOS

The strongly antirightist May Day demonstration by an estimated 500 students in Vientiane yesterday is indicative of the Pathet Lao's capability to muster sizable support on their behalf.

According to US embassy reports, the demonstration was peaceful and extremely well organized. The marchers, parading down the capital's main thoroughfare, carried placards denouncing Defense Minister Sisouk na Champassak and other senior non-communist coalition officials and demanding their removal from office.

The marchers also carried banners praising communist victories in South Vietnam and Cambodia and endorsing the coalition government's recent recognition of the Viet Cong's Provisional Revolutionary Government and Sihanouk's government. There were no blatantly anti-American themes. No abuse was directed at Americans who witnessed the march, nor did the demonstrators attempt to pass in front of the US embassy.

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[redacted] communist victories in neighboring South Vietnam and Cambodia have further eroded the morale and viability of the coalition's non-communist members. The May Day demonstrations will only deepen their sense of despair.

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[redacted] key civilian and military leaders are convinced that the refusal of the US Congress to provide emergency assistance to South Vietnam and Cambodia means that the non-communist side in Laos can no longer depend on US resolve to preserve Lao neutrality and uphold the stability of the present coalition. As a result, many prominent non-communists are beginning reluctantly to accept the inevitability of an eventual Pathet Lao "victory" in Laos, and some are even thinking of long-range plans to leave the country.

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### CHINA

Peking has marked the Vietnamese communist take-over of Saigon with an outpouring of congratulatory comment from the highest party and government levels.

Chairman Mao Tse-tung and Premier Chou En-lai have sent a message of congratulations to leaders of the Provisional Revolutionary Government and North Vietnam, which was delivered personally by Vice Premier Teng Hsiao-ping to their respective embassies in Peking. People's Daily also carried an editorial on the subject on May 1.

The statements largely reiterated standard propaganda themes, but along with other evidence and recent Chinese commentary on Vietnam, they suggest that Peking has reservations about the growth of North Vietnamese power.

The two statements heavily praised the PRG, but gave only a minimal nod to Hanoi's role. The editorial, in fact, was addressed to the people and army of South Vietnam, mentioning North Vietnam's help only once. Earlier in the war, the Chinese press often referred to North Vietnam as the South's reliable rear area.

Both statements clearly implied that China hopes for an eventual unification of Vietnam, but the leadership message also spoke of a "democratic and national revolution" in the South still to occur. This suggests Peking would prefer that unification not take place any time soon. The Chinese probably recognize, however, that they have little influence over the pace of North-South unification.

The commentaries also indicated Chinese concern over a postwar Soviet role in the region. People's Daily called Moscow expansionist and ambitious, and both statements closed with expressions of hope for a "free and independent" Vietnam.

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In contrast, US "imperialism and aggression" were portrayed as defeated by the Vietnamese, hence no longer a threat to the region. An NCNA dispatch on US evacuation from Saigon, in fact, gave favorable treatment to Secretary Kissinger's press conference remarks that the US would consider a new Asian policy in consultation with other Asian states and that Washington would carefully avoid overcommitment.

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NORTH KOREA

There are unconfirmed press reports that North Korean President Kim Il-song will follow up his visit to Peking with trips to Moscow, Bucharest, Belgrade, and, possibly, a few African capitals.

At this point, a Bucharest visit appears almost certain. Speculation on a Moscow visit has been stimulated by a Pravda announcement that the North Korean ambassador was received last week by a deputy chairman of the USSR Council of Ministers.

A visit to Moscow by Kim at this time would be a logical move in furthering North Korea's strategy of playing its two major allies off against each other. Kim was careful while in Peking to avoid subscribing to any anti-Soviet statement.

In Moscow, Kim would probably try to win new commitments for Soviet supplies of military equipment and, equally important, Soviet assistance in easing North Korea's critical shortage of foreign exchange for its industrialization programs. Kim would also be seeking Soviet support for his current campaign to secure the withdrawal of US forces from South Korea. The Soviets have been notably unenthusiastic in support of Kim's initiatives in this direction in recent years.

In Bucharest, the Korean President would be repaying the 1971 visit of President Ceausescu, who apparently found Kim a most congenial comrade. In Belgrade, Kim would be looking for additional support for his claim to "nonaligned" status, useful in North Korea's diplomatic dealings with Third World countries.

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PORTUGAL

The May Day celebrations in Lisbon yesterday were marked by an upsurge in party rivalry, as the Communists sought to offset the moderate parties' election victory last week with a massive show of labor support.

The Communist-dominated labor confederation sponsored a rally to honor workers' day, but refused to allow the center-left Popular Democrats to participate, saying they did not represent the workers. The Popular Democrats, who came in second in the election, staged a brief countermarch outside the stadium where the rally was held. They departed when extremists pursued them.

At the rally, which was attended by the top military policy-makers, Communists and Socialists engaged in a shouting match that interrupted a speech by Prime Minister Goncalves. Tensions between the two parties have increased rapidly since the election. The Communist Party weekly *Avante* responded yesterday to Socialist Party leader Soares' remarks early this week that the Communists had suffered an "immense defeat" and that it was now obvious they did not have the support of the Portuguese people. The Communist attack accused Soares of waging an anti-Communist campaign and encouraged the leaders of the Armed Forces Movement to make clear that the brand of socialism wanted is not that of the Socialist Party.

May Day was chosen by the ruling Revolutionary Council to promulgate the long-awaited unitary labor law. The Socialist Party had opposed placing Portuguese labor under a single, nationwide confederation--the Communist-dominated Intersindical--but had long since given up any real hope of blocking the move. Instead, the Socialists have concentrated on developing labor support in the hope of ousting Communist officials in the new union elections called for in the draft legislation.

There were some indications, however, that radical Armed Forces Movement officers were making a last-minute

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effort to modify the law so as to favor the Communists, probably by rewriting the section providing for elections. Such a development would be a blow to the Socialists, who expect to do well in the union balloting. It is not clear from early reports on the promulgation of the law whether the radical officers were successful in making substantial modifications.

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### ANGOLA

Fighting resumed Wednesday night in Luanda between forces of the Popular Movement for the Liberation of Angola and the National Front for the Liberation of Angola, after a cease-fire that lasted less than a day. The violence--Luanda's second wave of serious disorders in less than two months--could develop into a full-scale civil war.

The fighting has sparked widespread rioting and looting in one of the city's predominantly African shanty sections. Portuguese forces, which have remained neutral in past clashes between the groups, reportedly intervened on at least one occasion, but only to protect whites who were being intimidated by the Popular Movement.

Portuguese forces remain reluctant to act unilaterally to impose order. They prefer to leave that responsibility to the transitional government. If the fighting becomes too severe, however, they may be forced to move against the nationalists.

Both the Popular Movement and the National Front, bitter enemies for more than a decade, have been bringing large quantities of arms into the city and are spoiling for a showdown. Even if order is restored, future clashes seem inevitable.

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